

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for supporting at least first and second reinforcement bars in a concrete structure, the apparatus comprising:
a base member having a lower surface and an opposing upper surface;
a ~~plurality of~~ first leg members extending upward from the upper surface of the base member, ~~each~~ of the first leg members having a lower end connected to the base member and an upper end distally disposed from the lower end;
a second leg member extending upward from the upper surface of the base member, the second leg member having a lower end connected to the base member and an upper end distally disposed from the lower end;
at least a first cradle attached to the upper end of the first leg member, the first cradle for holding the first reinforcement bar only; and
~~at least a plurality of second cradles for holding a plurality of reinforcement bars, each cradle attached to the upper end of at least one of the first second leg members, each the second cradle for holding one of the plurality of the second reinforcement bars only, wherein the second reinforcement bar is held in a position substantially parallel to each of the other the first reinforcement bars held in each of the other first cradles.~~

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~each of the plurality of~~ first and second cradles each comprises a pair of opposing sidewalls separated by a channel.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
the base member having a first end and a second end;
a first pair of ~~the first~~ leg members disposed adjacent the first end of the base member;
a second pair of ~~the first~~ second leg members disposed adjacent the second end of the base member;
~~a the first cradle of the plurality of cradles, the first cradle~~ attached to the upper ends of the first pair of first leg members;

~~a the second cradle of the plurality of cradles, the second cradle~~ attached to the upper ends of the second pair of ~~first~~second leg members;

a ~~second~~third leg member extending upward from the upper surface of the first end of the base member, the ~~second~~third leg member having a lower end connected to the base member and an upper end connected to the first cradle; and

a ~~third~~fourth leg member extending upward from the upper surface of the second end of the base member, the ~~third~~fourth leg member having a lower end connected to the base member and an upper end connected to the second cradle.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the base member has a central opening disposed between the first leg members in the first pair, between the ~~first~~second leg members in the second pair, and between the ~~second~~third and ~~third~~fourth leg members.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the lower ends of the first leg members in the first ~~pair and second pairs~~ are spaced farther apart than are the upper ends of the first leg members, the lower ends of the second leg members in the second pair are spaced farther apart than are the upper ends of the second leg members, and the lower ends of the ~~second~~third and ~~third~~fourth leg members are spaced farther apart than are the upper ends of the ~~second~~third and ~~third~~fourth leg members.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising horizontal support members disposed between the first and second cradles.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~2 further comprising retaining members protruding inwardly from the opposing sidewalls of the first cradle to retain the first reinforcement bar within the channel.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base member, first and second leg members, and first and second cradles comprise a unitary structural element.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base member, first and second leg members, and first and second cradles are formed from a continuous piece of thermoplastic material.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) An apparatus for supporting reinforcement bars in a concrete structure, the apparatus comprising:

a base member having a lower surface, an opposing upper surface, a first end and a second end;

a plurality of pairs of opposing first leg members extending upward from the upper surface of the base member, each of the first leg members having a lower end connected to the base member and an upper end distally disposed from the lower end;

a first pair of the plurality of pairs of opposing first leg members disposed adjacent the first end of the base member;

a second pair of the plurality of pairs of opposing first leg members disposed adjacent the second end of the base member;

a plurality of cradles, each cradle attached to the upper ends of a corresponding pair of the plurality of pairs of opposing first leg members, each cradle for receiving a reinforcement bar;

a first cradle of the plurality of cradles, the first cradle attached to the upper ends of the first pair of opposing first leg members;

a second cradle of the plurality of cradles, the second cradle attached to the upper ends of the second pair of opposing first leg members;

a second leg member extending upward from the upper surface of the first end of the base member, the second leg member having a lower end connected to the base member and an upper end connected to the first cradle; and

a third leg member extending upward from the upper surface of the second end of the base member, the third leg member having a lower end connected to the base member and an upper end connected to the second cradle.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the base member has a central opening disposed between the first pair of opposing first leg members, between the second pair of opposing first leg members, and between the second and third leg members.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the lower ends of the opposing first leg members within each of the plurality of pairs are spaced farther apart than are the upper ends of the opposing first leg members, and the lower ends of the second and third leg members are spaced farther apart than are the upper ends of the second and third leg members.